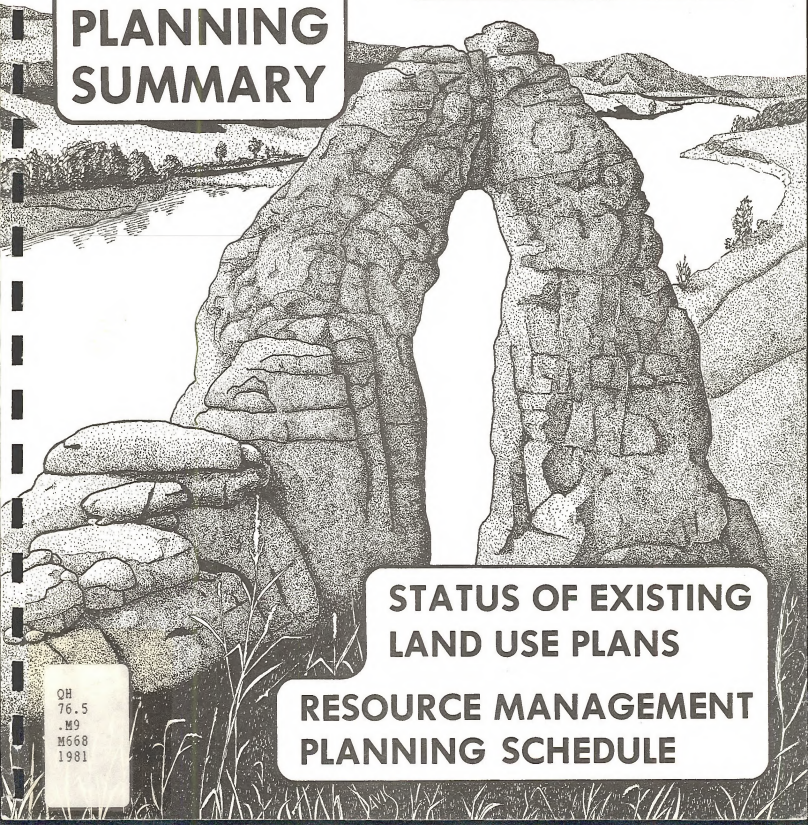
BLM LIBRARY
88047599

LIBRARY 1641

MONTANA AND THE DAKOTAS PLANNING SUMMARY

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office

SEPTEMBER 1981



STATUS OF EXISTING LAND USE PLANS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING SCHEDULE

QH
76.5
.M9
M668
1981

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

38047127

ID 88047599

QH
76.5
.M9
M68
1981

CONTENTS

What this document contains 1
Background 1
BLM Planning System 1
Management Framework Planning 5
Components 5
Program Direction 5
Resource Information 5
Management Decisions 5
Planning Areas 5
Planning Status Tables 6
Resource Management Planning 21
RMP Action Steps 21

LISTING OF MAPS, CHARTS, AND TABLES

Location Map, District and Resource Area Boundary 2
Organization Charts and Locations of BLM Offices in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota 3
Organization Chart, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office 4
Montana Planning Units Map 7
Dakotas Planning Units Map 8
Miles City District Planning Status Table 9
Ownership by Acreage Table — Miles City District 10
Location Map — Miles City District 11
Dickinson District Planning Status Table 12
Ownership by Acreage Table — Dickinson District 13
Location Map — Dickinson District 14
Lewistown District Planning Status Table 15
Ownership by Acreage Table — Lewistown District 16
Location Map — Lewistown District 17
Butte District Planning Status Table 18
Ownership by Acreage Table — Butte District 19
Location Map — Butte District 20
Long Term Planning Schedule — Montana, North and South Dakota 22
First Generation Resource Management Plans (RMP) Montana, North and South Dakota 24
Major Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Requirements for Montana and the Dakotas through 1987 25
Range EIS and Planning Areas 26

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

MONTANA PLANNING SUMMARY

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS:

The purpose for this summary is to provide a reference of the status of BLM planning throughout Montana and North and South Dakota. This includes information on our existing plans prepared under the older Management Framework Planning (MFP) system and the schedule for completing new Resource Management Plans (RMP) in accordance with the planning regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations 1601). As background information, an overview of BLM is provided along with an outline of the BLM organization for the three-state area. The MFP process is briefly described and the existing situation is presented by BLM district with regard to planning unit boundaries, acreages, and status of land use plans. An overview of the new Resource Management Planning process is included with some key differences from the MFP process. The outlook for Resource Management planning in the three state area is described, including the long term schedule for completing RMPs.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for the management of approximately 450 million acres of public lands. These lands are located primarily in the far west and Alaska.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) repealed and replaced many obsolete and overlapping statutes governing BLM. This legislative Act provides a basic mission statement for BLM and establishes policy guidelines and criteria for management of public lands and resources managed by the Bureau.

Some of the most significant aspects of FLPMA include the requirement that management decisions be based on land use planning and public involvement. The Act establishes policy that public lands will be retained in federal ownership, unless national interests indicate otherwise.

Resources managed by the BLM include timber, minerals, oil and gas, geothermal energy, wildlife habitat, endangered plant and animal species, livestock forage, recreation and cultural values, wild and scenic rivers, designated conservation and wilderness areas, and open space. BLM programs provide for protection, orderly development, and use of public lands and resources. In Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, BLM administers approximately 8.4 million surface acres and 55 million subsurface acres.* The administrative headquarters for this area is the Montana State Office (MSO) located in Billings, Montana. Management of the public lands is accomplished through four administrative districts with district offices located in Miles City, Lewistown, and Butte, Montana, and Dickinson, North Dakota. Each district is divided into resource areas to facilitate on-the-ground management and day-to-day administration on a multiple-use basis (see map). The Montana State Office provides guidance, supervision, and review to the district and resource area offices. The district and resource area offices are responsible for the development of coordinated land use allocations specifying guidelines, constraints, and criteria for the utilization or protection of the public land resources (see chart).

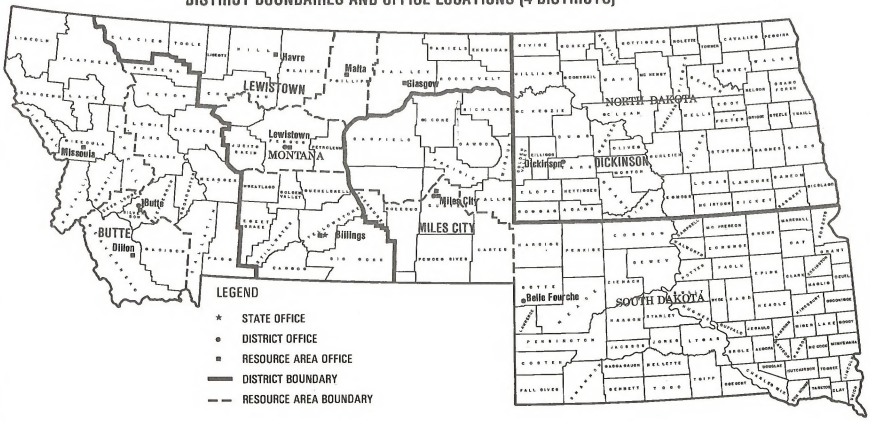
BLM PLANNING SYSTEM

The Bureau of Land Management is in a transition phase from the older management Framework Planning Process (MFP) to the present Resource Management Planning process (RMP). In response to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), BLM has established the RMP process to be implemented in accordance with the BLM planning regulations as set forth in 43 CFR 1601, September 1979.

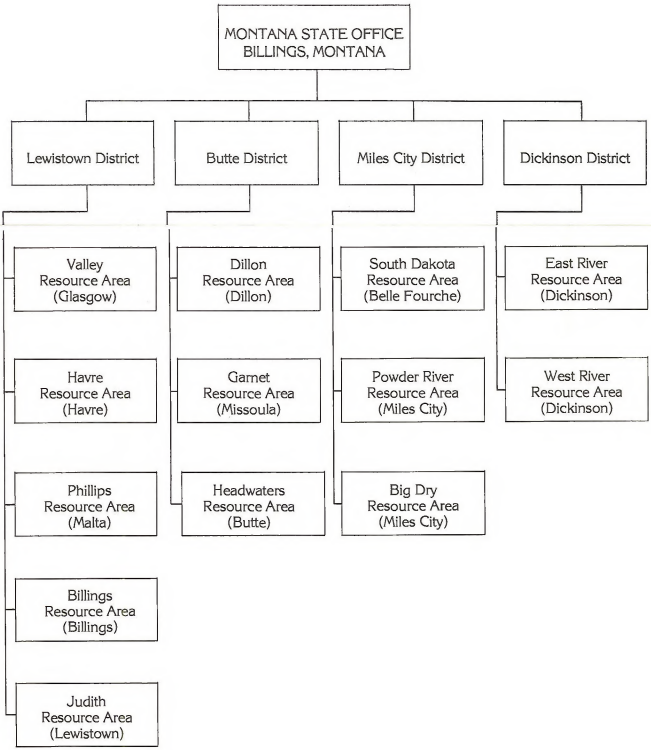
The BLM administered lands in Montana and North and South Dakota are not scheduled to be fully covered by RMPs until 1991 or later. In the interim, multiple use decisionmaking will be guided by RMPs as they are completed, but in many areas, existing MFPs will continue to provide a basis for resource management decisions for several years. As provided in the planning regulations, BLM is completing four "Transition Period MFPs" which utilize some of the provisions of the planning regulations but are basically following the MFP process. Two of these are in the Miles City District (Jordan-North Rosebud and New Prairie) and will be completed in Fiscal Year 1982. The other two are in the Dickinson District (Southwest and Williams-McKenzie), to be completed in FY 1983. After these are completed, all new plans will utilize the RMP process.

*BLM directly administers approximately 28 million acres of mineral estate and is the leasing agent to an additional 27 million acres of land administered by other federal agencies.

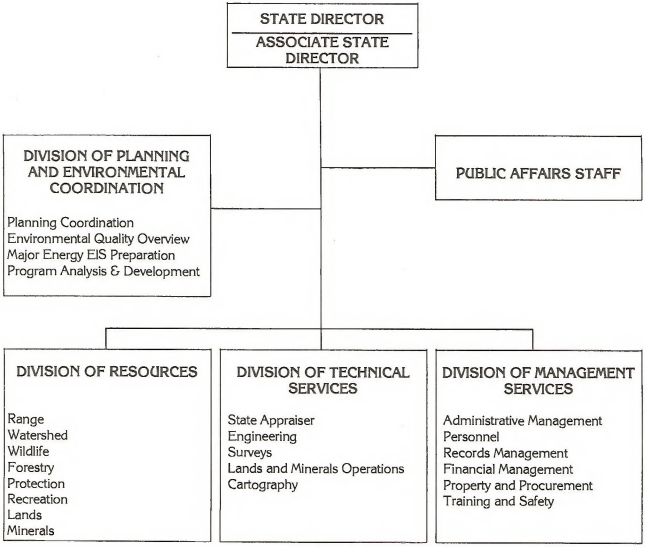
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS (4 DISTRICTS)



ORGANIZATION CHART AND LOCATIONS OF BLM OFFICES IN MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA



ORGANIZATION CHART
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT — MONTANA STATE OFFICE



If a significant change is needed in an existing plan (MFP or RMP) that must be made before the next regularly scheduled revision of the plan, the change requires an "amendment." BLM is now completing three amendments to existing MFPs, all scheduled for completion at the end of FY 1982. Two of these are related to the Wilderness Study Process, located in the Butte, Lewistown and Miles City Districts and one is related to coal leasing in the Miles City District (see plan status tables).

Management Framework Planning

In the MFP process, detailed information is gathered and management decisions are developed concerning the resource categories of lands, minerals, timber, livestock forage, soils, water, wildlife habitat, and recreation. In order to meet the needs of its diverse public users, BLM must effectively balance and compromise in the management of these resources and the public lands in general. Under the concept of multiple use management, all potential uses of the public's resources are equally considered and evaluated before a final management plan is developed and implemented.

A. Components

The Bureau of Land Management has developed its land use planning system with three major components:

Program Direction
Resource Information
Management Decisions

1. Program Direction. General program direction, policies, goals, and priorities are set by the President, Congress, and the Secretary of the Interior. These directions are expressed in executive orders, laws, regulations, and other documents.

2. Resource Information. In initiating this phase of the planning system, BLM specialists obtain all of the necessary land and resource information relative to the region under study. In particular, data is collected for the lands, minerals, recreation, wildlife, watershed, timber, and livestock forage programs. Here, each resource specialist—the forester, range conservationist, minerals specialist, watershed specialist, etc.,—studies the planning area to determine the current condition, use, trends, and problems concerning this resource responsibility. This analysis is then further developed to identify the maximum potential for the resource use being considered without the constraints of competing or conflicting uses. The importance of this step is that it shows all of the potential outputs that are possible from public lands. In addition, socioeconomic data is gathered and analyzed and an ecological profile is prepared to facilitate the evaluation of land use alternatives that will be generated by the planning system. In compiling the above information, the Bureau contacts traditional, as well as new, interests to make sure that all the available data has been obtained before going ahead with the planning process.

3. Management Decisions. The next phase of the planning system is designed to resolve resource use conflicts and to provide the basic guidelines for the use and management of the public lands under study. This is the heart of the planning system. Here, each resource specialist prepares objectives and outlines specific proposals for the optimum use of his resource based on current technology, Bureau guidelines, and the socioeconomic needs of the region.

Each of these individual resource proposals is then fully documented and individually portrayed utilizing a map and overlay system. At this point, the conflicts between the various resource proposals and possible multiple use solutions are identified through careful analysis and utilization of the narratives, maps, and overlays. Based on the comments and information received through public participation, BLM managers are often able to develop additional land use alternatives and multiple use solutions. The impacts of each of these alternatives are identified and analyzed to facilitate the selection of the best mix of uses for the area under study. As a result of those actions, a comprehensive land use plan is developed and adopted which establishes coordinated land use allocations for BLM managed resources along with specifying the guidelines, constraints, and criteria for this utilization.

B. Planning Areas

In the following section, statistical information is given on the planning system implementation that has been accomplished to date. The four districts in the Montana organization contain 13 "resource areas." These areas are further divided into 96 "planning units," the basic geographic land area where resource data is gathered, analyzed, and displayed within the planning system. When a planning effort is organized, one or more planning units are consolidated to form a designated planning area for which a Management Framework Plan (MFP) is developed. Currently, there are 41 planning areas in the four districts.

Office	Number Resource Areas	Number Planning Units	Number MFP Planning Areas
Miles City 02	3	26	12
Dickinson 03	2	26	3
Lewistown 06	5	27	13
Butte 07	3	17	13
Total	13	96	41

C. Planning Status Tables

In the following tables, acreage statistics are listed for each planning unit by BLM district. Also, as a guide to the status of planning, the tables indicate dates of the various stages of the planning system and the currency of each planning effort with regard to whether the plan has been prepared under the 1975 standards and format (1975 was the year of the latest major revision in the BLM guidelines for Management Framework Plans). To provide an idea of the nature of each planning effort, the table indicates presence or absence of key resource values according to planning system information.

The following definitions describe briefly the planning system/steps or stages in the tables.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA): This is a basic source of information on the land and its resources consisting of

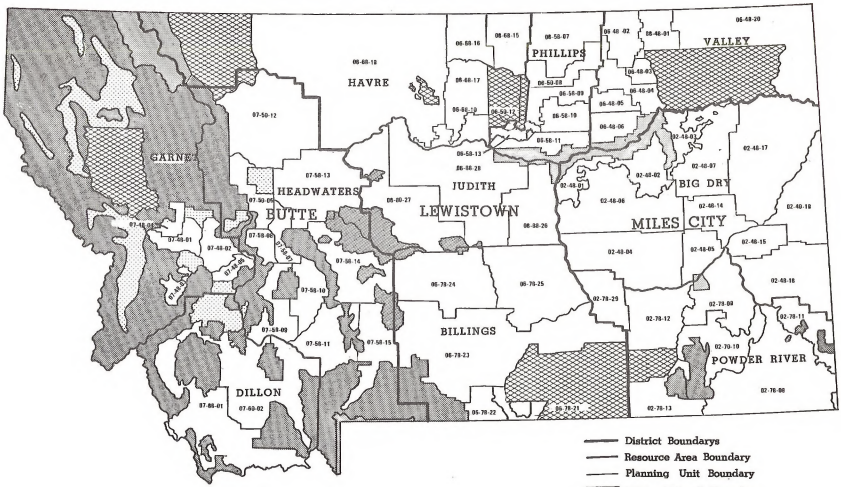
a. the Base Map
b. the Physical Profile
c. the Resource Inventory Summaries
d. resource potential and capability of the land to fill the public's needs for these resource activities: lands, minerals, recreation, wildlife, watershed, forest products, and range management.

Planning Area Analysis (PAA): This document analyzes requirements of the public now and in the future for lands, and renewable and non-renewable resources. It shows the significance of the lands within a planning area to users, operators, the community and region. It is based on data in the Social-Economic Profile (not shown in the tables) and other regional information.

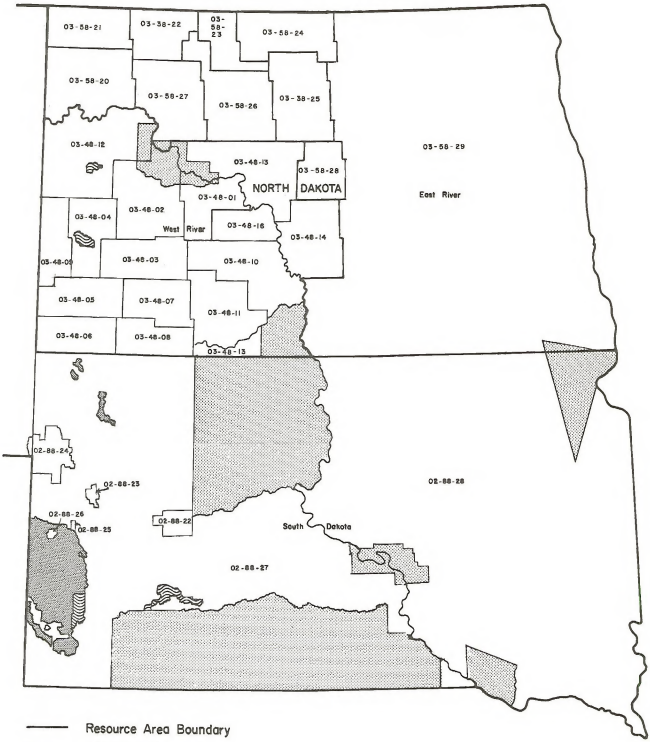
Management Framework Plan (MFP): This document contains the decisions which establish, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It is prepared in three steps: Step 1—resource recommendations; Step 2—impact analysis and alternative development; and Step 3—decisionmaking.

Amendment: A BLM plan (MFP or RMP) may be changed through amendment. An Amendment is initiated by the need to consider monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances, or an applicant's proposed action, which may result in a significant change in a portion of the approved plan. In the amendment process many of the steps correspond to the steps of the Resource Management Process (see next section) such as the Management Situation Analysis (MSA).

MONTANA PLANNING UNITS



DAKOTAS PLANNING UNIT INDEX



DISTRICT: MILES CITY (02)
NO. OF PLANNING UNITS: 26
NO. OF MFP AREAS: 12

PLANNING STATUS TABLE

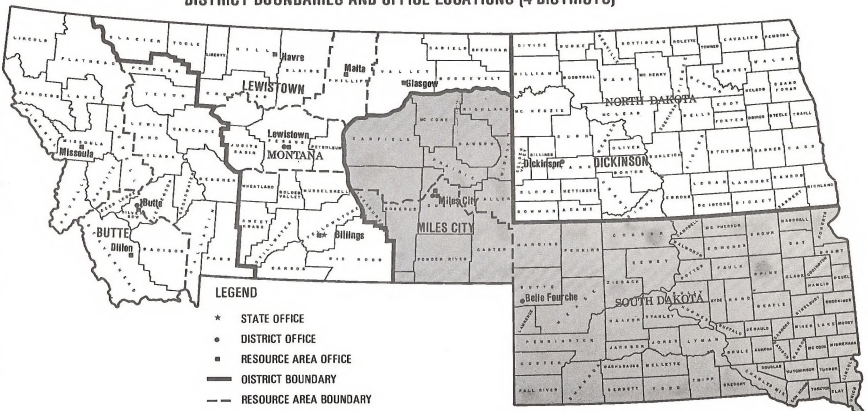
RESOURCE AREAS	No.	MFP AREA	UIRA COMPL	UIRA REV	PAA COMPL	PAA REV	MFP COMPL	MFP REV	AMENDMENT TYPE/DATE	75 STDS	KEY RESOURCE VALUES: COAL	GEOTHERMAL	FOREST PRODUCTS	WILDERNESS
Big Dry	48													
Powder River	78													
South Dakota	88													
PLANNING UNITS														
Big Dry Resource Area	48													
Musselshell	01	Musselshell	10/77		9/77		2/78		Wilderness MSA 10/81	No	X			X
Haxby	02	Haxby	9/77		6/78		2/78			No	X			X
McCone	03	McCone	12/77		6/78		2/78			No	X			X
North Rosebud	04	Jordan/N. Rosebud	6/72	12/80	1/81		6/73	9/81 Step 2		Yes	X			X
Kinsey	05	New Prairie		12/80	1/81		9/81 Step 2			Yes	X			
Jordan	06	Jordan/N. Rosebud		12/80	1/81		9/81 Step 2			Yes	X			
Circle	07	Redwater	8/78		6/78		6/79			Yes	X			
North Prairie	14	New Prairie	6/72	12/80	1/81		6/73	9/81 Step 2		Yes	X			X
South Prairie	15	New Prairie	6/72	12/80	1/81		6/73	9/81 Step 2		Yes	X			
Baker	16	New Prairie	6/72	12/80	1/81		9/81 Step 2			Yes	X			
Richland-Glendive	17	Redwater	8/78		6/78		6/79			Yes	X			
Wibaux	19	Redwater	8/78		6/78		6/79			Yes	X			
Powder River Resource Area	78													
Box Elder	08	Box Elder	6/72				6/73			No	X			
Custer	09										X			
Coalwood	10	Coalwood	1/75				8/75		Coal Draft 9/81	No	X			
Ekalaka	11										X			
South Rosebud	12	S. Rosebud	5/75				6/75		Coal Draft 9/81	No	X			
Decker-Birney	13	Decker-Birney	8/73				6/75		Coal Draft 9/81	No	X			X
Treasure	29		12/75								X			
South Dakota Resource Area	88													
Big Bend	22										X			
Newell	23													
Center of the Nation	24													
Ft. Meade	25	Ft. Meade	12/72				6/73						X	
Exemption	26	Exemption	8/75				8/75			No			X	
West River	27										X			
East River	28													

OWNERSHIP BY ACREAGE

Planning Unit Name	No.	Public Surface & Subsurface	State	Private	Other	Total	Approx. Ac. Private Surface Public Sub.	Approximate % Private Surface Public Sub. (of Total Area)
		Acreage (000's)						
MILES CITY DISTRICT	02							
Big Dry R.A.	48							
Musselshell	01	153	17	197		367	125	34
Haxby	02	227	30	318		575	206	36
McCone	03	165	27	234		426	156	37
N. Rosebud	04	152	106	1,452		1,710	188	11
Kinsey	05	60	24	359	10	453	68	15
Jordan	06	100	108	1,311		1,519	516	34
Circle	07	36	68	1,114		1,218	451	37
N. Prairie	14	256	33	222		513	103	20
S. Prairie	15	178	24	153		355	71	20
Baker	16	220	99	1,149		1,468	206	14
Richland-Glendive	17	50	149	2,083		2,282	1,050	46
Wibaux	19	96	64	902	1	1,063	372	35
Resource Area Total		1,695	749	9,494	11	11,949	3,512	
Powder River R.A.	78							
Box Elder	08	719	195	1,591	4	2,509	903	36
Custer	09	164	48	805		1,017	153	15
Coalwood	10	32	57	828		917	266	29
Ekalaka	11	18	33	481	87	619	173	28
S. Rosebud	12	49	55	960		1,064	135	13
Decker-Birney	13	79	48	618	153	898	242	27
Treasure	29	12	37	572	17	638	6	1
Resource Area Total		1,073	473	5,855	261	7,662	1,878	
South Dakota R.A.	88							
Big Bend	22	32	7	148	2	189		*
Newell	23	12	2	27		41		
Center of the Nation	24	122	23	241		386		
Ft. Meade	25	8				8		
Exemption	26	5		17		22		
West River	27	98				98		
East River	28	3				3		
Resource Area Total		280	32	433	2	747		

*South Dakota subsurface acreages are still being compiled.

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS (4 DISTRICTS)



PLANNING STATUS TABLE

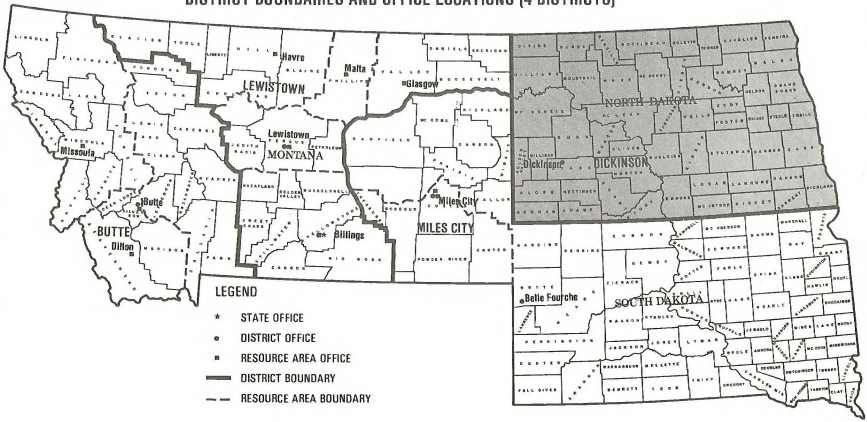
DISTRICT: DICKINSON (03)
NO. OF PLANNING UNITS: 26
NO. OF MFP AREAS: 3

RESOURCE AREAS	No.	MFP AREA	URA COMPL	URA REV	PAA COMPL	PAA REV	MFP COMPL	MFP REV	AMENDMENT TYPE/DATE	75 STDS	KEY RESOURCE VALUES: COAL	GEOTHERMAL	FOREST PRODUCTS	WILDERNESS
West River	48													
East River	58													
PLANNING UNITS														
West River Resource Area	48													
Mercer	01	West Central	2/75	8/80	9/76	7/80	9/80			Yes	X			
Dunn	02	West Central	2/75	8/80	9/76	7/80	9/80			Yes	X			
Stark	03	West Central	2/75	8/80	9/76	7/80	9/80			Yes	X			
Billings	04	Southwest									X			
Slope	05	Southwest									X			
Bowman	06	Southwest									X			
Hettinger	07	Southwest									X			
Adams	08	Southwest									X			
Golden Valley	09	Golden Valley	8/78		9/78		6/79			Yes	X			
Morton	10										X			
Grant	11	Southwest									X			
McKenzie	12	McKenzie-Williams									X			
McLean	13	West Central	2/75	8/80	9/76	7/80	9/80				X			
Burleigh	14										X			
Sioux	15										X			
Oliver	16	West Central	2/75	8/80	9/76	7/80	9/80				X			
East River Resource Area	58													
Williams	20	McKenzie-Williams									X			
Divide	21													
Burke	22													
Renville	23													
Bottineau	24													
McHenry	25													
Ward	26													
Mountrail	27													
Sheridan	28													
North Dakota East	29													

OWNERSHIP BY ACREAGE

Planning Unit Name	No.	Public Surface & Subsurface	State	Private	Other	Total	Approx. Ac. Private Surface Public Sub.	Approximate % Private Surface Public Sub. (of Total Area)
		Acreage (000's)						
DICKINSON DISTRICT	03							
West River R.A.	48							
Mercer	01	.5	15	616	79	710.5	168	24
Dunn	02	16.0	26	1,025	264	1,331	417	31
Stark	03	--	6	835	2	843	168	20
Billings	04	.6	31	361	336	728.6	472	65
Slope	05	-	24	622	139	785	448	57
Bowman	06	33.0	29	683	3	748	217	29
Hettinger	07	--	10	716	--	726	243	34
Adams	08	.1	17	616	.1	633.2	109	17
Golden Valley	09	2.0	29	521	96	648	238	37
Morton	10	1.0	18	1,211	14	1,244	74	16
Grant	11	.6	33	1,025	11	1,069.6	99	9
McKenzie	12	2.0	63	1,080	674	1,819	1,449	6
McLean	13	.6	21	1,203	265	1,489.6	133	9
Burleigh	14	.9	28	1,019	24	1,071.9	43	4
Sioux	15	--	24	389	312	725	7	1
Oliver	16	.1	9	458	-	467.1	96	21
Resource Area Total		57.4	383	12,380	2,219.1	15,039.5	4,381	
East River R.A.	58							
Williams	20	1.0	38	1,265	63	1,367	500	37
Divide	21	2.0	21	804	10	837	281	34
Burke	22	--	16	673	33	722	91	13
Renville	23	.1	2	541	25	568.1	18	3
Bottineau	24	--	3	1,066	23	1,092	6	1
McHenry	25	3.0	22	1,151	42	1,218	20	2
Ward	26	.3	11	1,283	22	1,316	114	9
Mountrail	27	1.0	32	1,100	96	1,229	308	25
Sheridan	28	.4	26	605	12	643.4	56	9
N.D. East	29			NOT CALCULATED				
Resource Area Total				NOT CALCULATED				

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS (4 DISTRICTS)



PLANNING STATUS TABLE

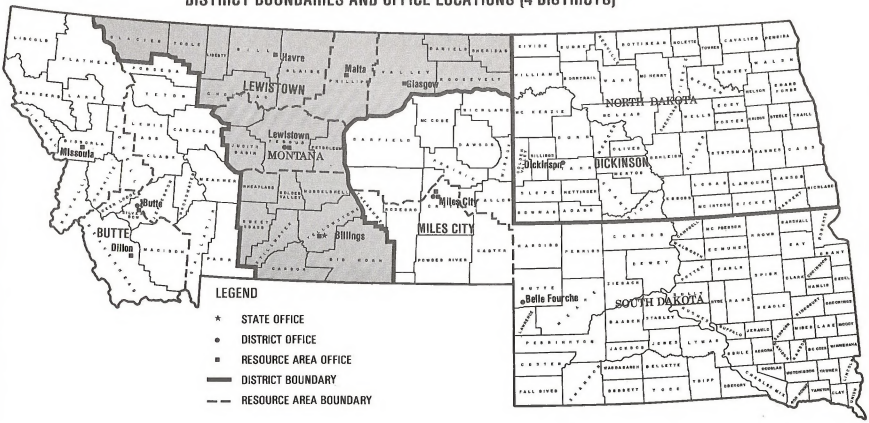
DISTRICT: LEWISTOWN (04)
NO. OF PLANNING UNITS: 27
NO. OF MFP AREAS: 13

RESOURCE AREAS	No.	MFP AREA	URA COMPL	URA REV	PAA COMPL	PAA REV	MFP COMPL	MFP REV	AMENDMENT TYPE/DATE	75 STDS	KEY RESOURCE VALUES: COAL	GEOTHERMAL	FOREST PRODUCTS	WILDERNESS
Valley	48													
Phillips	58													
Havre	68													
Billings	78													
Judith	88													
PLANNING UNITS														
Valley Resource Area	48													
Opheim	01	Valley	12/73		5/77		6/76			Yes				
Rock Creek	02	Valley	1/73		5/77		6/76			Yes				
Grassland	03	Valley	10/73		5/77		6/76			Yes				
Glasgow	04	Valley	1/73		5/77		6/76			Yes				
Sagehen	05	Valley	6/70		5/77		6/76			Yes				X
Willow Creek	06	Valley	7/77		5/77		10/77		Wilderness MSA 9/81	Yes				
Medicine Lake	20										X			
Phillips Resource Area	58													
Whitewater	07	Phillips	6/73		5/77		6/74							
Big Bend	08	Phillips	4/73		5/77		6/74							
Alkali	09	Phillips	4/73		5/77		6/74							
Beaver Creek	10	Phillips	4/76		5/77		6/74							X
UL Bend	11	Phillips	8/77		5/77		10/77		Wilderness MSA 9/81	Yes				X
Little Rockies	12	Little Rockies	7/77		5/77		10/77			Yes				X
Zortman	13	Phillips	8/77		5/77		10/77		Wilderness MSA 9/81	Yes				X
Havre Resource Area	68													
Big Flat	15	Blaine	3/74				6/74							
Chinook	16	Blaine	6/73				6/74							
Chief Joseph	17	Blaine	3/74				6/74							
South Bearpaw	18	South Bearpaw	6/77				10/77		Wilderness MSA 9/81	Yes				X
Triangle	19	Triangle	4/75				6/75							
Billings Resource Area	78													
Bighorn	21	Pryor Mtns.	1/73				11/75			Yes				
Red Lodge	22	Red Lodge	2/72				7/72				X			
Yellowstone	23		12/75								X			
West Musselshell	24	W.Musselshell	1/75				2/76							
Bull Mountains	25	Bull Mtns.	2/73				10/73				X			
Judith Resource Area	88													
Petroleum	26	Petroleum	8/77		11/78		1/78			Yes				
Belt Mountains	27	Belt Mtns.	9/77		11/78		1/78			Yes				X
Fergus	28	Fergus	11/77		11/78		1/78		Wilderness MSA 9/81	Yes				X

OWNERSHIP BY ACREAGE

Planning Unit Name	No.	Public Surface & Subsurface	State	Private	Other	Total	Approx. Ac. Private Surface Public Sub.	Approximate % Private Surface Public Sub. (of Total Area)
		Acreage (000's)						
LEWISTOWN DISTRICT	**06**							
Valley R.A.	48							
Opheim	01	12	52	340		404	24	6
Rock Creek	02	340	50	111		501	30	6
Grassland	03	55	59	50	3	167	10	6
Glasgow	04	58	32	413		503	30	6
Sagehen	05	236	17	38		291	17	6
Willow Creek	06	317	20	58		395	24	6
Medicine Lake	20	5	417	1,752	1,364	3,538	1,734	49
Resource Area Total		1,023	647	2,762	1,367	5,799	1,869	
Phillips R.A.	58							
Whitewater	07	412	56	486		954	143	15
Big Bend	08	24	25	354		403	60	15
Alkali	09	102	35	342		479	72	15
Beaver Creek	10	217	25	169		411	62	15
UL Bend	11	297	23	137		457	69	15
Little Rockies	12	26		2		26	4	15
Zortman	13	21	97	117		235	35	15
Resource Area Total		1,099	261	1,607		2,965	445	
Havre R.A.	68							
Big Flat	15	92	31	463		586	100	17
Chinook	16	149	34	391		574	98	17
Chief Joseph	17	17	74	691		782	133	17
S. Bearpaw	18	243	18	96		357	61	17
Triangle	19	172	499	4,817	204	5,692	455	8
Resource Area Total		673	656	6,458	204	7,991	847	
Billings R.A.	78							
Bighorn	21	92	10	94	101	297	30	10
Red Lodge	22	114	15	203		332	33	10
Yellowstone	23	31	242	6,948		7,221	486	7
W. Musselshell	24	10	212	1,452	87	1,670	67	4
Bull Mtns.	25	193	101	1,195		1,489	104	7
Resource Area Total		440	580	9,892	188	11,100	720	
Judith R.A.	88							
Petroleum	26	334	61	608	3	1,006	50	5
Belt Mtns.	27	19	169	148	407	743	30	4
Fergus	28	388	203	2,087	15	2,693	135	5
Resource Area Total		741	433	2,843	425	4,442	215	

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS (4 DISTRICTS)



PLANNING STATUS TABLE

DISTRICT: BUTTE (07)
NO. OF PLANNING UNITS: 17
NO. OF MFP AREAS: 13

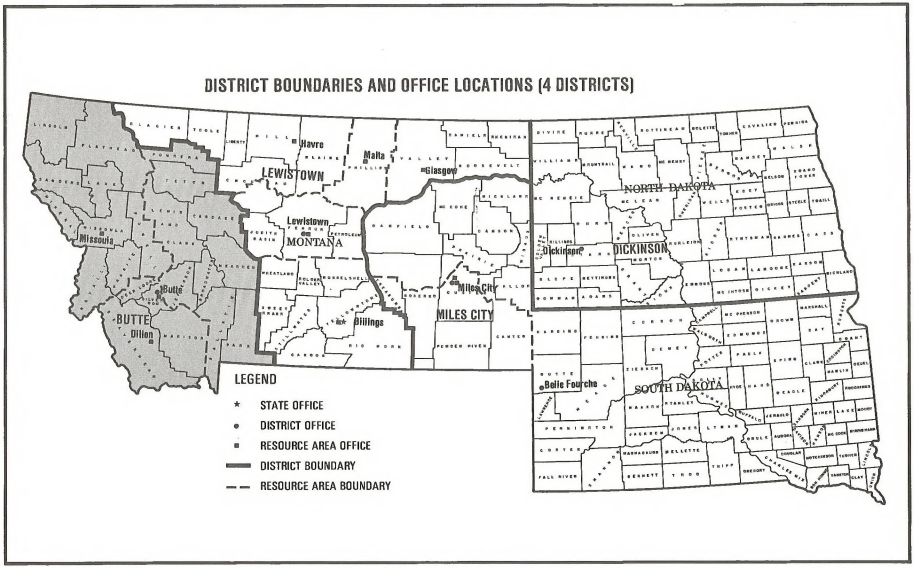
RESOURCE AREAS	No.	MFP AREA	URA COMPL	URA REV	PAA COMPL	PAA REV	MFP COMPL	MFP REV	AMENDMENT TYPE/DATE	75 STDS	KEY RESOURCE VALUES: COAL	GEOTHERMAL	FOREST PRODUCTS	WILDERNESS
Garnet	48													
Headwaters	58													
Dillon	68													
PLANNING UNITS														
Garnet Resource Area*	48													
Blackfoot	01	Blackfoot	4/71				5/72				X		X	X
Hoodoo	02	Hoodoo	4/71				4/72				X		X	X
Philipsburg	03	Philipsburg	2/73				6/73				X		X	X
Salmon Lake	04	Salmon Lake	12/73				6/74						X	X
Avon	05	Avon	4/73				6/73				X		X	X
Headwaters Resource Area**	58													
East Slope	06	East Slope	6/74				6/75						X	X
Gates of the Mtns.	07	Gates of the Mtns.	5/72				6/73					X	X	X
Marysville	08	Marysville	2/73				6/73					X	X	X
Jefferson	09	Jefferson	2/74				12/74					X	X	X
Broadwater	10	Broadwater-Three Forks	5/76		4/76		6/76			Yes			X	X
Three Forks	11	Broadwater-Three Forks	5/76		4/76		6/76			Yes			X	X
Teton River	12	Teton River	1/74				4/74							
Cascade	13	Teton River	3/76				6/76						X	X
Meagher	14	W. Musselshell	1/75							Yes			X	X
Park	15		12/75										X	X
Dillon Resource Area	68												X	X
Beaverhead	01	Dillon	11/78		10/78		9/79		Wilderness MSA 9/81	Yes		X	X	X
Madison	02	Dillon	11/78		10/78		9/79		Wilderness MSA 9/81	Yes		X	X	X

*In future planning efforts in Garnet, Blackfoot and Salmon Lake will be combined and Hoodoo and Avon will be combined.

**For the Headwaters RMP, to be completed in Fiscal Year 1983, the planning area will be the entire resource area.

OWNERSHIP BY ACREAGE

Planning Unit Name	No.	Public Surface & Subsurface	State	Private	Other	Total	Approx. Ac. Private Surface Public Sub.	Approximate % Private Surface Public Sub. (of Total Area)
		Acreage (000's)						
BUTTE DISTRICT	07							
Garnet R.A.	48							
Blackfoot	01	86	13	202		301	33	11
Hoodoo	02	41	8	293		342	7	2
Philipsburg	03	22	4	94		120	36	30
Salmon Lake	04	1	44	130	4	179	--	1
Avon	05	1			250	251	5	2
Resource Area Total		151	69	719	254	1,193	81	
Headwaters R.A.	58							
East Slope	06	18	62	328		408	16	4
Gates of the Mtns.	07	27	19	260		306	12	4
Marysville	08	29	14	179		222	9	4
Jefferson	09	98	36	398		532	16	3
Broadwater	10	67	28	416	34	545	27	5
Three Forks	11	10	86	708		804	8	1
Teton River	12	18			2,559	2,577	180	7
Cascade	13	21	65	745	117	948	28	3
Meagher	14	10	88	967	460	1,525	61	4
Park	15	11	33	837	800	1,681	17	1
Resource Area Total		309	431	4,838	3,970	9,548	374	
Dillon R.A.	68							
Beaverhead	01	682	238	720	131	1,771	126	7
Madison	02	372	170	1,114	--	1,656	112	7
Resource Area Total		1,054	408	1,834	131	3,427	238	


DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS (4 DISTRICTS)
LEWISTOWN
Havre
Malta
Glasgow
Lewistown
MONTANA
Missoula
Butte
BUTTE
Dillon
Billings
Miles City
MILES CITY
NORTH DAKOTA
Dickinson
DICKINSON
Belle Fourche
SOUTH DAKOTA
LEGEND
STATE OFFICE
DISTRICT OFFICE
RESOURCE AREA OFFICE
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
RESOURCE AREA BOUNDARY

Resource Management Planning

The Resource Management Planning Process was established in September 1979 by the planning regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations 1601). The process and regulations are being revised as experience is gained but many of the steps and concepts will probably not change. Resource Management Planning has similar objectives to the Management Framework Planning Process, but uses somewhat different procedures including the following major innovations:

1. An Environmental Impact Statement is prepared on the overall plan in which several complete, reasonable resource management alternatives are assessed. These alternatives provide a range of choices from those favoring resource protection to those favoring resource production. The preferred alternative is selected from the alternatives and becomes the final "Resource Management Plan."

2. "Planning Criteria" are established during the process. These are the standards which focus the planning analysis on possible solutions to resource management issues. They may be thought of as a set of tests and measures to guide plan development. They provide information needed by the public to understand the standards which apply in the various planning steps and the decisions made at the end of the planning process.

3. RMPs are intended to be more "issue driven" than was the case in the old MFP process. The plan will focus on significant identified issues so that available effort will be concentrated in areas where it is most needed. As an example, if a portion of a planning area is identified where there are no significant problems or conflicts, the environmental impact statement will assess only the impacts of continuing with present management.

4. Public participation in RMPs is more structured and formalized. The public must be given an opportunity to participate at specified points in the process with notification in advance and minimum timeframes for response. This increases the importance of adherence to the schedule set for the stages in the plan.

The current schedule was based on several mandatory requirements which for the past few years have provided little room for delays or alternative strategies. These include the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) suit (NRDC vs. Morton, et al.) requirement to prepare environmental impact statements assessing the impact of range management alternatives and decisions; the requirements for land use planning in preparation for coal leasing; and the completion of the land use planning part of the Wilderness Study process to determine suitability of identified wilderness study areas for official designation as wilderness. The original goal in the development of the RMP process was to complete RMPs in all resource areas.

Anticipated funding restrictions may require alternatives of this goal which would alter the long term planning schedule (next page). In some areas, the issues may not be significant enough to justify the expense of an RMP. The preplanning analysis will be employed to evaluate the extent and nature of needed decisions in an area and the degree of public controversy present. In some instances, the regularly scheduled RMP may be delayed.

RMP Action Steps

As a brief overview of the RMP process, the nine RMP action steps are summarized below. Tentative completion dates of the action steps in each of the scheduled RMPs are shown on the following table.

Step 1—Issue Identification: As a logical development from the preplanning analysis, the identification of issues constitutes the first action step toward completion of the plan. This step is designed to identify the critical public land management problems in the resource area covered by the plan. A clear understanding of the planning issues is essential since the issues provide a focus for the remaining action steps in the process. The planning team obtains comprehensive public and BLM inputs and screens, evaluates, and combines the inputs to produce a summary statement of the planning issues. From each issue statement, "Planning Questions" are formulated which ask what needs to be known, analyzed, or decided upon to resolve the issues. The planning effort then becomes directed toward answering these questions.

Step 2—Development of Planning Criteria: As stated earlier, planning criteria are the standards, assumptions, or parameters which focus the planning analysis on possible solutions. The District Manager's concept of the plan is developed as an anticedent to the planning criteria to describe the decisionmaker's thinking about resource uses, values and potential allocations in the plan. The criteria then reflect the District Manager's concepts. The criteria can be changed if warranted as they are utilized to guide the subsequent steps of the process such as inventory and data collection, development and evaluation of alternatives, and selection of the preferred alternative. During this step, the criteria are used to set up analysis units (or geographical subdivision of a resource area), and to develop concept or preliminary alternatives which are essential at this stage to guide inventory data collection.

LONG TERM PLANNING SCHEDULE - MONTANA, NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

September 1981

DISTRICT/RA	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
									Fiscal Year									
Miles City District																		
Big Dry RA	UM EIS	UM* EIS			PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV
Powder River RA	INV	INV CA	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP				
South Dakota RA	PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP		
Dickinson District																		
West River RA	PPA	PPA	UM**	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP	
East River RA	PPA	PPA	UM**	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP	
Lewistown District																		
Billings RA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP				
Judith RA		WA				PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP							
Valley RA	PPA EIS	PPA WA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP		
Phillips RA	EIS	WA			PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV
Havre RA	EIS		PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP
Butte District																		
Dillon RA		WA		PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP
Headwaters RA	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					
Garnet RA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP					PPA	PPA	INV	INV	RMP	RMP			

Legend: UM — Unit Resource Analysis - Management Framework Plan (for an area less than the total resource area)
EIS — Environmental Impact Statement
RMP — Resource Management Plan
INV — Inventory
CA — Coal Amendment
PAA — Pre-Planning Analysis
WA — Wilderness Amendment

* MFPs will be completed for the Jordan-North Rosebud and New Prairie planning areas.

** MFPs will be completed for the Southwest and Williams-McKenzie planning areas.

Step 3—Inventory Data and Information Collection: The collection of inventories related to the planning effort is carefully organized and designed for pertinence to the issues and planning questions. The normal interval for this step is two years, but our anticipated funding limitations may require shorter time periods and a much more restrictive inventory program.

Step 4—Management Situation Analysis (MSA): This section of the RMP describes the existing physical and biological condition of resource values found within the Resource Area together with current social and economic features. The analysis aggregates the results into meaningful planning information. It is used as the basis for alternatives assessment and provides a measure of the public land resources capability to respond to various degrees of usage. It consists of the Physical Profile, Social and Economic Conditions, and the Management Situation.

Step 5—Formulation of Alternatives: In this step the team identifies, in a set of reasonable statements, the range and various combinations of public land uses and resource management practices which appear to respond to the planning issue. The alternatives will portray the relationships between the different uses to determine conflicts or beneficial combinations of uses. A screening process is used to combine or eliminate possible choices to a manageable number. Goal statements and multiple use objectives are developed for each of the viable and reasonable alternatives, including a "No Action" alternative that represents a continuation of present resource management uses and levels. These alternatives are carried forward into the planning process.

Step 6—Estimation of Effects of Alternatives: The environmental consequences of the alternatives are identified and analyzed. The result provides a means of comparison of the alternatives and a record for comparing the preferred alternative with the others considered. No specific technique or approach is mandatory for this step as long as the one used satisfies the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the regulations pertaining to this Act.

Step 7—Selection of the Preferred Alternative: Based on a comparison of the alternatives and their effects, the District Manager selects the preferred alternative for inclusion in the draft Resource Management Plan and related Environmental Impact Statement. This alternative represents the District Manager's best approach to resolving the issues based on environmental, social, economic (including cost effectiveness), and administrative concerns. It may be one of the originally formulated alternatives, or a modification.

Step 8—Selection of Resource Management Plan: The public must be provided 90 days in which to review and comment on the draft Resource Management Plan and related EIS. After the public review period, comments will be evaluated and a report prepared on the public input. If, based on public comment, the plan to be proposed is not within the range of alternatives in the draft plan, and the impacts are significantly different, a new draft plan must be prepared.

The District Manager completes preparation of the plan and recommends to the State Director the proposed RMP. The State Director approves and files the proposed RMP and related EIS.

Step 9—Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitoring of the RMP is the systematic analysis of changes or trends (short-term and long-term) to determine: (1) the effects of the provisions of the RMP on the environment, and (2) how the actions and/or their effects comply with laws, regulations, policies, executive directives, and management decisions.

A Monitoring Plan is developed and approved by the District Manager which focuses on the broad land use allocation decisions in the plan. (The smaller scale program decisions are handled as part of the activity planning process.) The monitoring plan describes the specifics of the process including which decisions require it, procedures, standards, and timing.

FIRST GENERATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS (RMP)
MONTANA, NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA

	Tentative Completion Dates						RMP Action Steps		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9*
District/ Resource Area	Issue Ident.	Plan Criteria Development	Inv Col	MSA	Formul. of Alt.	Assessment of Alt.	Selec. of Pref. Alt.	Selec. of RMP	Monitoring & Eval. Plan
Miles City									
Big Dry	10/87	11/87	9/88	4/89	9/89	11/89	5/90	9/90	10/90
Powder River	10/81	11/81	9/82	4/83	9/83	11/83	5/84	9/84	10/84
South Dakota	10/83	11/83	9/84	4/85	9/85	11/85	5/86	9/86	10/86
Dickinson**	10/84	11/84	9/85	4/86	9/86	11/86	5/87	9/87	10/87
Lewistown									
Billings	10/81	11/81	9/82	4/83	9/83	11/83	5/84	9/84	10/84
Judith	10/88	11/88	9/89	4/90	9/90	11/90	5/91	9/91	10/91
Valley**	10/83	11/83	9/84	4/85	9/85	11/85	5/86	9/86	10/86
Phillips	10/87	11/87	9/88	4/89	9/89	11/89	5/90	9/90	10/90
Havre	10/85	11/85	9/86	4/87	9/87	11/87	5/88	9/88	10/88
Butte									
Dillon	10/86	11/86	9/87	4/88	9/88	11/88	5/89	9/89	10/89
Headwaters***	9/79	11/81	9/81	4/82	9/82	11/82	5/83	9/83	10/83
Garnet	10/82	11/82	9/83	4/84	9/84	11/84	5/85	9/85	10/85

*The monitoring plan implementation commences on the date shown for portions of the plan not under protest and which have been approved. Protests are handled in accordance with 43 CFR 1601.6-1 and could require longer time frames.

**The RMP schedules for the Dickinson District and Valley Resource Area may be delayed.

***The Headwaters RMP is a bureauwide pilot effort which utilized a variation of Steps 1, 2, and 3.

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) REQUIREMENTS FOR MONTANA AND THE DAKOTAS THROUGH 1987

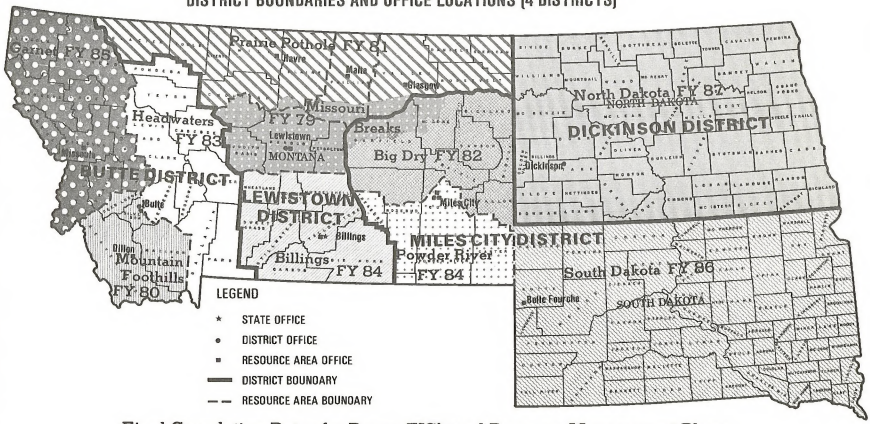
EIS Title	EIS Coverage	Completion Date	Status	BLM District	BLM Resource Area
Missouri Breaks	Grazing Mgt.	Sept. 1979	Completed	Lewistown	Judith (all) Havre (part) Valley (part) Phillips (part) Big Dry (part)
Mountain Foothills	Grazing Mgt.	Sept. 1980	Completed	Butte	Dillon (all)
Prairie Potholes	Grazing Mgt.	Sept. 1981	Completed	Lewistown	Havre (balance) Valley (balance) Phillips (balance)
Big Dry	Grazing	Sept. 1982	On Schedule	Miles City	Big Dry (balance)
Headwaters	Planning Wilderness Grazing	Sept. 1983	Pilot RMP on Schedule	Butte	Headwaters (all)
Billings	Grazing Planning Wilderness Coal	Sept. 1984	RMP on Schedule	Lewistown	Billings (all)
Powder River	Grazing Planning Coal Wilderness	Sept. 1984	RMP on Schedule	Miles City	Powder River (all)
Garnet	Grazing Timber Wilderness Planning	Sept. 1985	RMP on Schedule	Butte	Garnet (all)
South Dakota	Grazing Planning	Sept. 1986	RMP process initiated*	Miles City	South Dakota (all)
North Dakota	Grazing Planning	Sept. 1987	RMP not started*	Dickinson	North Dakota (all)
Fort Union Regional Coal	Coal	Jan. 1983 (First Sale) Jan. 1985 (Second Sale)	On Schedule	Dickinson Miles City	North Dakota, Big Dry (portions in Ft. Union Reg. Coal Area)
Powder River Regional Coal	Coal	Dec. 1984 (First Sale) Feb. 1984 (Second Sale)	On Schedule	Miles City	Powder River (portions in Powder River Reg. Coal Area)

*Consideration is being given to alternative strategies for these planning efforts. Preplanning analysis will be employed to determine if an RMP is justified.

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

RANGE EIS AND PLANNING AREAS

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS (4 DISTRICTS)



Final Completion Dates for Range EIS's and Resource Management Plans

ER'S CARD

β 1981

Dakotas

ry

OFFICE	DATE RETURNED

(Continued on reverse)

QH 76.5 .M9 M668 1981

Montana and the Dakotas
planning summary

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225